AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 6, as follows:

The compounds which are the subject of the present invention have the following general formula (I):

in which

$$R = X \begin{bmatrix} (CH_2)n & Y & Y'' \\ N & R'' & R''' \\ R' & R''' \end{bmatrix}_{Z} \begin{bmatrix} Y' & Y'' \\ R''' \\ Z' \end{bmatrix}$$

m is the number 0 or 1;

Z and Z', which can be the same or different, are an integer ranging from 0 to 2;

Y and Y', which can be the same or different, are $(CH_2)n_1$; $(CH_2)n_2$ -CH[NR^{VII}(CH₂)n₄-NHR^I]-(CH₂)n₃; CH₂-CH[CH₂-CH₂]₂- or $(CH_2)n_2$ -N[(CH₂)n₄-NHR^{IV}]-(CH₂)n₃;

Y" is selected from the group consisting of H; cycloalkyl C_3 - $C_{7;}$ (CH₂) n_5 -N[CH₂-CH₂]₂N-(CH₂) n_6 NHR^V; (CH₂) n_7 -CH[CH₂-CH₂]₂NR^V;

X is O, or is a simple bond;

n-n₈, which can be the same or different, are an integer ranging from 0 to 5;

R^I, R^{II}, R^{IV}, and R^V, which can be the same or different, are a protective group for the nitrogen to which they are bound; CO₂R^{VI}; CO₂CH₂Ar; CO₂(9-fluorenylmethyl); (CH₂)n₅-NHCO₂R^{VI}; CH₂Ar; COAr; (CH₂)n₅-NHCO₂CH₂Ar; (CH₂)n₅-NHCO₂-(9-fluorenylmethyl).

R^{VI} is a straight or branched (C₁-C₆) alkyl;

R^{VII} is H or R^I-R^V;

Ar is a C_6 - C_{12} aromatic residue, such as phenyl, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from: halogen, hydroxy, C_1 - C_5 alkyl, C_1 - C_5 alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro, - $NR^{VIII}R^{IX}$, where R^{VIII} and R^{IX} , which can be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched (C_1 - C_5) alkyl, or Ar is a heterocyclic group, said heterocyclic group containing at least one heteroatom selected from a nitrogen atom, optionally substituted with a (C_1 - C_5) alkyl group,

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and/or oxygen and/or sulphur; said heterocycle can be substituted with one or more groups selected from halogen, hydroxy, C_1 - C_5 alkyl, C_1 - C_5 alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro, -NR^{VIII}R^{IX}, where R^{VIII} and R^{IX}, which can be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched (C_1 - C_5) alkyl, the N₁-oxides, racemic mixtures, their individual enantiomers, their individual diastereoisomers, the E and Z forms, their mixtures, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts.